

Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau

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October 15, 2016

The Honorable Tory Rocca
Chairman, Senate Regulatory Reform Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Rocca:

I write to you today on behalf of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau. Our organization represents six main travel destinations in Michigan, including Bay City, Birch Run, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Midland and Saginaw. Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the official destination management organization as well as our Region's official destination management organization. We are here to share the things we love about this region with those traveling here for various business and leisure reasons as well as to facilitate tourism economic development efforts. In order to fully assist in travel promotion and planning, our areas need to be able to offer travelers with the latest in transportation services, including Transportation Network Companies (TNC's).

Michigan needs legislation what would ensure that TNC's, such as Lyft are able to provide necessary transportation options to both the Great Lakes Bay Region's visitors and residents. TNC's have opened doors to millions of people. Commuters are now able to access affordable ride sharing options. Rural residents now have mobility, when public transportation was not an option. Also, special needs passengers can now rely on a safe ride option while gaining independence.

Furthermore, TNC's don't just help passengers; they have ignited the workforce across this country giving fodder to the entrepreneurial spirit in our communities. TNC's have given American workers a way to earn additional income while tending to full-time employment and family needs. Through the technological operations of TNC's, drivers are able to work when convenient for themselves and their families.

TNC's are novel by their technological innovation, however that should not qualify them for supplemental regulation in addition to what other transportation companies endure. We must ensure that TNC's are given a fair shake to operate in our state and ensure that they are not overregulated as to hinder the economic growth they provide. We should support this new transportation endeavor and welcome them into our communities. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau

cc: Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof

